

SUBMARINE SINKS BRITISH LINER

Over 400 Believed to Have Perished When the Persia Sank in Mediterranean.

ONE NORTH CAROLINIAN

Every Effort Being Made to Find Out if the Two Americans Are Among Survivors.

London, Jan. 1.—The British liner Persia carrying approximately 200 passengers, and a crew of between 250 and 300 men was sunk by an unidentified submarine at 1 o'clock Thursday afternoon off the island of Crete, in the Eastern Mediterranean. Reports to the Peninsular and Oriental Steam Navigation Company said Robert McNeely, of Monroe, N. C., that nearly all on board were lost. American consul at Aden, Arabia, and Robert Grant, of Boston, were on the liner.

Four boats are known to have got away from the sinking vessel, each capable of carrying sixty persons, but it is not known if the boats were full. The rescued were picked up by a steamer bound for Alexandria, where they were expected to arrive to-day.

Peninsular and Oriental Line officials said they had received no details concerning the disaster, and did not know whether the Persia received warning. They also were unable to give any information concerning Americans on the ship.

CONSUL SKINNER BUSY.

Every effort is being made by Consul General Robert P. Skinner at London to get some information about Robert N. McNeely and Robert Grant. The British admiral informed Mr. Skinner that it had no information with regard to the fact of individual passengers. A cablegram has been sent to Alexandria requesting any news available regarding the survivors.

The Persia sailed from London on December 18, for Bombay, with sixty-one first class passengers and eighty three cabin passengers including eight children. Some of these, including Edward Rose, a Denver school boy, were landed at Gibraltar, Marseilles and Malta. At Marseilles 231 passengers including eighty-seven women and twenty-five children were taken aboard, but line officials say that after deducting those leaving the ship at various ports of call approximately 200 passengers were on the vessel.

Mr. McNeely sailed from New York for England on November 27, on the steamer Ryndam, being a fellow passenger of Consul General Skinner, who advised him to sail for the east by the Dutch Line, but the young man already had engaged passage on the Persia. He was appointed consul to Aden in October.

The Persia was a steamer of 7,974 tons gross. She was owned by the Peninsular and Oriental Steam Navigation Company, of London. She sailed from Bombay November 14 for London, and was last reported as leaving Gibraltar on December 2.

The Persia was one of several vessels recently sunk by submarines in the Eastern Mediterranean, through which her course to the Suez Canal would take her from Malta. On December 24 the French liner Ville De La Clotat was sent to the bottom off the island of Crete by a submarine, which, according to unofficial British advices, flew the Austrian flag.

No advices have been received in New York as to the date on which the Persia sailed from London. They voyage from London to Malia ordinarily requires nine days.

The Persia was built in 1900 at Greenock. She has been in the Bombay service since that time.

On account of the danger from submarines to vessels which pass through the Suez Canal and the Mediterranean this route has been abandoned by the Japanese Mail Steamship Company, which is despatching its steamships around the Cape of Good Hope. Insurance rates for vessels passing through the Suez have been increased by English underwriters to three or four times the normal figure.

Lord Charles Montagu, who booked passage on the Persia, is a London stock holder broker. He was born in 1850 and served with the yeomanry cavalry.

HE HAD NO FEAR OF SUBMARINES

Consul McNeely Talked Optimistically to Friends at Washington.

WAS PLEASED WITH JOB

Young Tar Heel Eagerly Awaited Chance to See Old Lands to Which He Was Bound.

Washington, Jan. 1.—The presence on the torpedoed Persia of Robert McNeely, the young North Carolinian who was en route to Aden to serve as consul, has given an unusual notoriety to this latest sea tragedy which is regarded as fraught with the most serious possibilities.

The fate of McNeely is awaited anxiously, not only by large numbers of friends and relatives in North Carolina, but by the State Department, although its action in the matter will be very largely determined by whether or not American lives were placed in wanton jeopardy. Sufficient information upon which to act may not be placed before the Department under several days. If McNeely has escaped, his testimony will be regarded as of utmost worth.

McNeely was in a most optimistic frame of mind before leaving Washington on the dangers of submarines. He remarked that if the ship he intended going on should be attacked, he would not be left in the water if there was anything around to float on. He told the Observer correspondent he did not expect any trouble and that he believed the greater danger of such attacks had passed.

He was happy over his appointment as consul and looked forward to seeing the life along the Mediterranean and in the old countries. His appointment had come after a long wait. He passed his examination in the fall of 1904 with an excellent grade. There was no suitable vacancy at that time and he continued in his law practice.

Assistance was given him by Senators Overman and Simmons and Representative Page in getting admission to the school and in receiving his appointment which was made October 18, 1915.

McNeely is widely known in North Carolina, being a student at the University of North Carolina from 1905 until he received his license in 1907 to practice law. The next year he was chosen a member of the House of Representatives from Union county, and subsequently he was called upon to become Senator, representing Union, Stanley and Davidson counties.

In college he was recognized for his love of oratory and for his studious habits. He is 32 years of age.

Chicago in Grip of Grip and Pneumonia.

Chicago, Jan. 3.—The epidemic of grip and pneumonia here is held responsible for a record established at the county hospital yesterday, according to figures made public to-day. Two thousand and thirty-five persons were treated at the institution, this being the greatest number in one day since its establishment.

New McNeely, United States Consul at Aden, on board the torpedoed liner Persia, was accompanied by his brother, Dowd McNeely, until recently editor of the Waxhaw, N. C. Enterprise. It was stated here to-night, Dowd McNeely was to have been his brother's secretary.

Robert Ney McNeely was a lawyer, born near Waxhaw, N. C., in 1884. He spent two years at the University of North Carolina, was a member of the North Carolina general assembly in 1908 and a United States Senator in 1914. The post in Aden was his first consular assignment.

Cable communication with the east is so slow that details of the disaster are not expected for a day or two, but the meagre reports received gives rise to the fear that the sinking of the Persia will prove the most disastrous result of the submarine campaign since the torpedoing of the Lusitania.

A majority of the Persia's passengers were British bound for India, including many women. Her cargo was small but she carried a heavy consignment of mail. The crew consisted of 250 men.

LANCASTER COUNTY TO HAVE HOME DEMONSTRATION WORK

ACCOMPLISHED AS RESULT OF THE EFFORTS OF THE LANCASTER CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.

AGENT TO BEGIN WORK ABOUT FEBRUARY FIRST

Senator Williams and Representatives Bailes and Massey, Co-operate in Securing Appropriation.

Lancaster county will soon enjoy the advantages of home demonstration work with an agent to teach canning, bread-making, etc., through the efforts of the Lancaster Chamber of Commerce which enlisted the enthusiasm of the county legislative delegation. The delegation will have inserted in the supply bill this month an appropriation of \$600.00 for this work, which amount will be supplemented by \$300.00 from Winthrop College and the State's Department of Agriculture. The following is a copy of the agreement recently made by which this work is to be inaugurated:

Lancaster, S. C.
Dec. 4, 1915

This is to certify that the County Legislative Delegation of Lancaster County agrees to have inserted in the Supply Bill of January 1916, an appropriation of Six Hundred (\$600.00) Dollars, for the Home Demonstration Work of said county. This money



SENATOR D. REECE WILLIAMS
Lancaster S. C.

Senator D. Reece Williams is a son of Judge and Mrs. D. A. Williams of this place and is well known and liked throughout this entire section of the state.

He was educated at University of South Carolina. He also graduated from the law department of the University in 1903, and has been an active and most successful member of the law firm of Williams & Williams, since. He is member of both the Masonic and Junior Order Societies.

Mr. Williams served eight years



HON. S. E. BAILES
Pleasant Valley, S. C.

Mr. Bailes is a son of a Confederate soldier, the late J. P. Bailes, and was born in the Pleasant Valley section of Lancaster county in 1886. He attended the public schools of the community and in 1904 won a scholarship to Clemson College, graduating from that institution with high honors in 1908. While in college he took an active part in literary society work and also in Y. M. C. A. work, winning one of the

is given with the understanding that Winthrop College and the United States Department of Agriculture will give Three Hundred (\$300.00) Dollars, making in all the sum of nine hundred (\$900.00) dollars, which shall be used to pay the salary of a local agent at seventy-five (\$75.00) dollars per month for a period of ten months and furnish an Expense Account of one hundred fifty (\$150.00) dollars. This agent will be given the franking privilege and all necessary State supervision, and all necessary State supervision, County Legislative Delegation of Lancaster County.

Signed by:
(Signed) D. Reece Williams, Senator
(Signed) J. C. Massey, Representative
(Signed) S. E. Bailes, Representative
Winthrop College and the United States Department of Agriculture,
Signed by:
(Signed) Edith L. Parrott
State Agent Home Demonstration Work.

as Secretary-Treasurer of the Lancaster Graded School Board, resigning same on account of his election to the Senate in the summer of 1914. He is also a member of Moore & Williams Insurance Agency.

He is intensely interested in the general improvement of conditions throughout the county. When approached on the subject of an appropriation to organize the Home Demonstration Work in Lancaster county he was most active in its behalf, declaring that if it succeeded in teaching better methods of cooking, canning, etc., it would certainly be money well spent. He has devoted much time and attention to the improvement of public highways and roads in the county. He has time and again publicly stated that the improvement of the public roads reflect the enterprise and measure the advancement of the county in modern community building. He is also just as enthusiastic with reference to the school facilities and agricultural and other conditions throughout the county.

Mr. Williams is a most progressive business and professional man, a member of the Lancaster Chamber of Commerce, and is always ready and willing to lend a helping hand towards the accomplishment of those things that will help the town. He is a broad-minded, public spirited man and a valuable asset to our city, county and state.



HON. J. COPELAND MASSEY
Kershaw, S. C.

Mr. Massey is the oldest child of Mr. and Mrs. H. B. Massey, and was born at Tuckahoe in Lancaster county May 1881. When about one year old his parents moved to Taxahaw where he grew up to manhood. He attended the common schools of the county, afterwards two years at the graded schools in Kershaw, and later one year at the Preparatory schools at Marshville, N. C. He

SAYS 69 LYNCHED BY MOB LAST YEAR

Head of Division of Records at Tuskegee Makes Annual Compilation for 1915.

55 NEGROES AND 14 WHITES

Only 15 Per Cent of Those Put to Death Were Charged With Assault on Women.

Tuskegee, Ala., January 1.—An annual record of all lynchings in the United States has been furnished by Monroe N. Work, head of the division of records and researches of the Tuskegee Institute, who aided Dr. Washington to compile these records for the past several years.

According to this record there have been during the year 69 lynchings, 55 negroes and 14 whites. This is six more negroes and eleven more whites than were put to death by mobs in 1914, when the record was forty-nine negroes and three whites. Included in the record are three women. In at least four instances it later developed that the persons put to death were innocent of the offense charged. Eighteen, or more than one-fourth of the total lynchings, occurred in the state of Georgia.

Only eleven, ten negroes and one white, of those put to death, or fifteen per cent of the total, were charged with rape. Other offenses and numbers lynched for were: Murder 17, five whites and twelve negroes; killing officers of the law 9, three whites and six negroes; wounding officers of the law, 3; clubbing officers of the law, a family of four, father, son and two daughters; poisoning mules 3; stealing hogs, 2, white; disregarding warning of night raiders 2, white; insulting women 3; entering women's rooms, 2; wounding a man, 2; stealing meat, 1; burglary, 2; robbery, 11; looting, 1; stealing cotton, 1; charged with stealing a cow, 1; furnishing ammunition to a man resisting arrest, 2; beating wife and child, 1, white; charged with being accessory to burning barn, 1.

Lynchings occurred in the following states: Alabama 9, Arkansas 5, Florida 5, Georgia 18, Illinois 1, Kentucky 5, Louisiana 2, Mississippi 9, Missouri 2, Ohio 1, Oklahoma 3, South Carolina 1, Tennessee 2, Virginia 1, Texas 5.

STATESVILLE MAN

KILLED IN WRECK
H. C. White in Wreck Near Charlottesville—Eleven Other Persons Injured.

Charlottesville, Va., Jan. 1.—H. C. White, of Statesville, N. C., an express messenger on the Southern railway's "Augusta Special," died in a hospital here today from injuries received last midnight when the passenger train southbound ran into a through freight standing at the junction of the double track two miles north of Shipman. Eleven other persons were injured, none seriously.

REV. W. E. WILKINS DIES.

Well Known Baptist Minister Passes Away in Greenville.

Greenville, Dec. 31.—The Rev. Walter E. Wilkins, a prominent Baptist minister of South Carolina, died here this morning after an illness of several weeks, aged 43 years. He had for years been a leader in the Laymen's Missionary movement in South Carolina and had been affiliated with the home and foreign mission boards of the Southern Baptist convention.

The Rev. Mr. Wilkins was a graduate of Furman University and attended the Southern Theological seminary for three years when he was the victim of an accident in the gymnasium and retired from his studies. Then he worked for a while in the mission field of western North Carolina and later he was assistant pastor of the First Baptist church of Columbia during the pastorate of the late Dr. W. C. Lindsay. For a time he served the Baptist church of Millen, Ga., but was called back to this State to take charge of the Laymen's movement.

DISPENSARY DIES AFTER LONG LIFE

Nearly 25 Years Ago State Grog Business Was Opened.

SYSTEM KEPT UP 7 YEARS.

Final Blow Struck by Vote of the People in September.

Columbia, January 1.—The question of the abolition of the whiskey traffic in South Carolina began to be agitated soon after the redemption of the State under Gen. Hampton in 1876, but this early agitation was for local option in a few scattered counties. Special acts of the General Assembly were introduced and passed permitting "wet" and "dry" elections for Anderson, Orangeburg, Laurens and other counties. The contest between the prohibitionists and license men in some of these counties was heated. In none of them which succeeded in voting out the licensed saloons was prohibition successfully enforced in those days and after a few years most of them returned to the licensed saloon system.

In the Legislature of 1890 a bill for Statewide prohibition, introduced by late L. D. Childs, of Richland county developed great strength and narrowly failed of passage. This was the period of intense division between the "Tillmanites" and the "anti-Tillmanites" and both factions included numbers of men on both sides of the liquor question. Neither faction, as such, was willing to take a stand on either side of the question. In 1892 when the contest for governor was between B. R. Tillman and John C. Sheppard, the State Democratic executive committee consented that in each precinct a separate box should be placed in which the people at the primary election might vote as between prohibition and licensed saloons. The total vote cast for governor at this election was a little less than 88,000, and the vote on the whiskey question totaled a little more than 70,000. The prohibitionists won in the referendum by about 10,000, the vote for license being about 30,000, and that for prohibition about 40,000. When the result became known it was taken for granted that the Legislature would enact the Childs bill or one similar to it. Mr. Childs did not return to the Legislature and the new prohibition bill was introduced in the house by Mr. Roper, when the Legislature met in November. The Tillmanites or "Reformers" had overwhelming majorities in both houses. The leaders of their faction were afraid of prohibition. They apprehended that it might, if enacted, cause an increase of taxation and in other ways divide the Tillman forces. The Roper bill was, however, promptly passed by the house. In the senate a number of bills bearing on the whiskey traffic were introduced and at one time it seemed as though the subject would be so confused in that body that no legislation would result. Governor Tillman already had taken the position that the profits of the saloons, which hitherto had gone entirely into the town treasuries, should be divided with the counties so the rural section might share them. Marlboro county at this time was dry as it had been since a day preceding the War Between the Sections, and there may have been one or two other dry counties.

As the end of the session of the dispensary bill was introduced by Senator John Gary Evans, then of Aiken. The dispensary system, modeled upon the Gothenburg system of Norway, was already in operation in Athens, Ga. T. Larry Gantt, then editor of the Columbia Register, had lately come to South Carolina from Athens and it was said that he suggested the Athens plan to Governor Tillman. At any rate Governor Tillman became enamored of the scheme. When the bill was introduced in the senate no one took it seriously except those of the inner councils of the Reformers, but it was said that the Reformers, but it was said that